

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
28 June, 1977

AM

10:00 CONVENE, 708 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C.

ADMINISTRATION

- A. Dates of next meetings: 26 July, 1977
23 August, 1977.
- B. Minutes of May, 1977 meeting.
- C. House District Committee Hearings on Staff Report, "Impediments to the Economic, Functional, and Aesthetic Development of the District of Columbia, the Nation's Capital" - Report.
- D. Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation, Western Sector Design Guidelines.

SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS

- A. National Capital Planning Commission

Foreign Missions and International Agencies Elements to the Comprehensive Plan - Staff Report.
- B. National Park Service, National Capital Region

Theodore Roosevelt Island Footbridge - Resubmission.
- C. Smithsonian Institution

Plantation and Paved Areas between Smithsonian Institution Building and Arts and Industries Building - Redevelopment Designs.
- D. Department of the Treasury, Bureau of the Mint
 - 1. Jimmy Carter Presidential Medal, Reverse Design.
 - 2. Chief Justice John Marshall Medal, Obverse Design.
 - 3. Chief Justice Harlen F. Stone Medal, Obverse Design.
 - 4. Carson City Historic Mint Medal, Obverse Design.
- E. District of Columbia Zoning Commission

Relocation of Lenthall Houses, 612-14 19th Street, N.W.

28 June, 1977

F. D.C. Department of Economic Development

Old Georgetown Act

1. OG 77-116, 1210-14 35th Street, N.W., Three New Row-houses - Resubmission.
2. OG 77-120, 3250 Grace Street, N.W., Construction of Townhouse Structures and Remodeling of Existing Buildings - Resubmission.
3. OG 77-131, 1101 30th Street, N.W., New Apartment Building - Resubmission.
4. OG 77-133, 1049 30th Street, N.W., New Office, Apartment, and Hotel Complex - Resubmission.
5. OG 77-134, 1218 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., Installation of Painting on Exterior Wall.
6. OG 77-136, 3616 N Street, N.W., New Single-Family House.
7. Appendix 1.

Shipstead-Luce Act

1. SL 77-71, 2601-11 Kingle Road, N.W., Six Single-Family Detached Houses.
2. SL 77-78, 1415-19 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Installation of Parking Lifts on Roof of Parking Garage.
3. SL 77-81, 13th & E Streets, N.W., New 12-Story Office Building with Retail and Underground Parking - Preliminary Design.
4. SL 77-82, 5196 27th Street, N.W., Two New Single-Family Houses - Resubmission.
5. SL 77-88, 453 New Jersey Avenue, S.E., New Office/Retail Building - Resubmission.
6. Appendix 2.

G. D.C. Department of Housing and Community Development

Fort Lincoln Activity Area Landscape Plan.

28 June, 1977

Historic Subdivisions

Appendix 3.

INSPECTIONS

A. D.C. Department of Economic Development

Shipstead-Luce Act

SL 77-71, 2601-11 Klinge Road, N.W., Six New Single-Family
Detached Houses.

B. National Zoological Park

Central Area Development.

28 June, 1977

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
SL 77-72	1719 G Street, N.W. 1730 Pennsylvania Avenue Associates	Sidewalk cafe with plant dividers.
ACTION: 6/2/77	Issue permit for rental of public space.	No objection to design of planters and other features.
73	1007 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Blimpies Restaurant	Installation of unlighted, single-faced 2' x 10' sign (resubmission refer to SL 77-60).
ACTION:	Issue permit. 6/8/77	
74	131 C Street, S.E. Alan Partridge	Install 20' of 4' high stockade on steel posts on wall and 36' of 6' high stockade on wood posts in ground.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 6/2/77	
75	1327½ E Street, N.W. S. L. Management	Change existing sign by covering word "Serenade" with aluminum sign and lettering "Melody".
ACTION:	Issue permit. 6/9/77	
77	601 19th Street, N.W. Charles Smith	Raze existing building.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 6/7/77	
79	336 Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E. Kramer Books	Air conditioning system at rear of building (resubmission refer to SL 77-70).
ACTION:	Issue permit. 6/24/77	
80	453 New Jersey Avenue, S.E. 453 New Jersey Avenue, S.E. Associates	Raze existing building per specifications of Application to Raze.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 6/24/77	
83	124 D Street, S.E. Bruce Grayson	Alter front entrance and construct new side alley entrance.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 6/21/77	
84	410-410½ 1st Street, S.E. Mar-Penn, Limited	Renovate two existing buildings (resubmission refer to SL 77-44).
ACTION:	Issue permit. 6/24/77	

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT

28 June, 1977

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
SL 77-85	412 1st Street, S.E. Mar-Penn, Limited	Three-story masonry office building (resubmission refer to SL 77-45).
ACTION:	Issue permit.	Suggest simpler windows on top floor. 6/24/77
86	336 Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E. Kramer Books	Install sign above front display window.
ACTION:	Issue permit.	6/24/77
87	600 M Street, S.W. St. Augustine's Chapel	Screened enclosure to totally conceal installation of new cooling tower.
ACTION:	Issue permit for air conditioning equipment.	Submit drawings for screen fence and planting. 6/24/77

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON HISTORIC SUBDIVISION APPLICATIONS

28 June, 1977

<u>NO.</u>	<u>SQUARE, LOT, ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
HS 77-40	Square 1290, Lot 847 3330 Reservoir Road, N.W. Dr. Javier Sagaminaga	Conversion of Assessment and Taxation Lot 847 into a record lot to allow for addition.
<u>ACTION:</u>	No objection. 6/21/77	
43	Square 1245, Lot 147 3314 P Street, N.W. Joseph & Polly Kraft	Conversion of Assessment and Taxation Lot 813 into a record lot to allow for addition.
<u>ACTION:</u>	No objection. 6/10/77	
45	Square 1282, Lot 248 3035 Cambridge Place & 1625 Avon Place Lester H. Shor	Subdivision of existing Lot 248 into two lots.
<u>ACTION:</u>	No objection. 6/22/77	
46	Square 1208, Lot 867 3122 N Street, N.W. Karen & Milton Schneiderman	Conversion of Assessment and Taxation Lot 867 into a record lot to allow for addition.
<u>ACTION:</u>	No objection. 6/24/77	
47	Square 1198, Lot 817 1070 Thomas Jefferson Street, N.W. 1070 Thomas Jefferson Associates	Conversion of Assessment and Taxation Lot 817 into a record lot to allow for construction of new office/apartment building.
<u>ACTION:</u>	No objection. 6/24/77	

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PROJECTNO. ADDRESS AND OWNER

OG 77-

130 3343 P Street, N.W.

Wiley T. Buchanan, III

ACTION: Remove old wooden sliding garage door and replace with "Colonial" style wooden door. Both doors are black. Do not issue permit. Recommend keeping existing design door if possible. If overhead door is to be used, exact drawings should reflect what the design includes as infill between the existing cornice line and the top of the new door. 6/23/77

132 3316 P Street, N.W.

Richard Bernstein

ACTION: Conversion of former carpet factory to single-family dwelling. Submit further drawings as available. 6/23/77

135 1623 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W.

Robert Wolpe

ACTION: Construct new building, leaving existing front building wall (resubmission refer to OG 77-68). Recommend additional study on front doorway in terms of reusing original brackets. Issue permit for brick-faced rear addition; concrete block wall not recommended in historic district. 6/23/77

138 1023 31st Street, N.W.

T. Manousakis

ACTION: Rehabilitate existing structure, add 1,948 square feet of new construction, alter interior for restaurant. Do not issue permit. Recommend restudy in brick with less horizontal emphasis. Suggest retention of tower elements. 6/23/77

139 1055 Thomas Jefferson Street, N.W.

Gregory Tu

ACTION: New sign (resubmission refer to OG 77-122). Issue permit. 6/23/77

28 June, 1977

PROJECTNO. ADDRESS AND OWNER

OG 77-

93 1530 30th Street, N.W.

Mr. & Mrs. John H. Schafer

Construct new "porte-cochere".

ACTION: Do not issue permit. No objection to pergola structure approach, however recommend that final design solution screen automobiles from public view. Question height of pergola element with relation to opening, proportions of houses, and the potential overhanging obstruction of proposed planting. 6/1/77

99 3222 & 3248 M Street, N.W. (rear)

1070 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W.

Herbert S. Miller

Demolition of all but the two structures fronting on M Street. Construction of 2-5 levels of residential over 3 levels of commercial and 3 levels of parking (resubmission refer to OG 77-90).

ACTION: Demolition: Issue permit. Buildings fronting on M Street shall be retained per approved plans. Retaining wall along C. & O. Canal shall be preserved per plan. New Construction: Preliminary approval pending restudy of Wisconsin Avenue facade for height and facade treatment. Detail development should be reviewed along with material samples, landscaping, and finely tuned details. Recommend submission of a model. Recommend coordination of parking access with D.C. Municipal Planning Office. 6/1/77

109 1101 30th Street, N.W.

JBG Associates

Construct apartment building.

ACTION: Do not issue permit. Preliminary design approach approved subject to further development. Request submission of adequate drawings, model, and material samples as developed. Recommend lower cornice height on northern end of 29th Street facade. 6/1/77

112 3261 K Street, N.W.

Weissberg Corporation

Raze two-story warehouse on K Street.

ACTION: Issue permit for demolition. 6/1/77

113 3400 Dent Place, N.W.

Margery Thompson & Idris Russell

Demolish existing two-story porch, stairs, fence. Rebuild new.

ACTION: Issue permit. Recommend that brick fence and lattice be painted to more closely conform to traditional Georgetown character. 6/9/77

114 1316 Potomac Street

Mary Gloria Monteiro

Replacement of existing badly deteriorating fence.

ACTION: Issue permit. 6/9/77

28 June, 1977

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
OG 77-115	2824 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Howard Wilcox	Addition to rear of existing building to enlarge space. Height will be equal to that of existing building.
ACTION:	Do not issue permit. Request additional study of windows and submission of brick sample. Recommend that windows on first and second floors be more similar to proportions existing on rear of existing building. NOTE: Sign on facade of building erected without proper permit review. 6/1/77	
117	3140 M Street, N.W. Mrs. Tolkim	Remove existing sign and replace with back-lighted sign as shown on drawing.
ACTION:	Do not issue permit. Recommend that letter size be reduced to 12-14" in height. Backboard counts as sign square footage and should be limited to 25 square feet. No objection to silhouetted, back-lighted lettering on sign. 6/9/77	
118	1227 33rd Street, N.W. Karl Krenzer	Replace rear kitchen window (3'4" x 6'4") with new window (5'4" x 5'7").
ACTION:	Do not issue permit. Recommend alteration of illegally installed window. Restudy shape and proportion of window to more closely reflect vertical rectilinear proportions seen on building's other openings. 6/9/77	
119	3616 N Street, N.W. Dr. John F. Bresette	New single-family house on vacant lot.
ACTION:	Do not issue permit. Restudy front facade in terms of single facade plane and vertical alignment of windows more typical of the traditional format in the historic district. No objection to additional study in contemporary idiom, or with use of trellises; however, traditional proportions, planes, and silhouette compatible with the historic district should be adhered to. Recommend against use of "twin" double-hung 1-over-1 windows. 6/9/77	
121	1236 33rd Street, N.W. Roger Pauley	Extend existing room on second floor to property line on south.
ACTION:	Issue permit. Recommend transom above new second floor French doors. 6/9/77	
122	1055 Thomas Jefferson Street, N.W. Georgetown Inland Corporation	Addition of sign.
ACTION:	Do not issue permit. Recommend restudy of proportions to have vertical composition within side of the column. Edge of sign should set back from edges of columns at least two inches. 6/9/77	

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE OLD GEORGETOWN ACT

28 June, 1977

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ADDRESS AND OWNER</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
OG 77-123	1530 30th Street, N.W. Mr. & Mrs. John H. Schafer ACTION: Issue permit. 6/13/77	New "porte-cochere" (resubmission refer to OG 77-93).
124	1014 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. Yes! Incorporated ACTION: Issue permit for main sign only. Recommend against four suspended elements itemizing products sold. Recommend that Engineering check bracket mounting on top of parapet wall. 6/23/77	Sign for South Street side of building for new Center for Natural Living.
125	1264 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. Martin's Tavern ACTION: Issue permit. 6/23/77	Install gear-roller awning over N Street entrance, 7'0" projection, and rental of public space.
126	1015 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. James M. & Daniel T. Donohoe ACTION: Issue permit. 6/22/77	Install two 3296 LDD skylights on roof between existing supports. Skylights will sit on 8" curbs flashed with copper and will not be visible due to 1' high fire wall.
127	1079 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. Samuel Levy ACTION: Do not issue permit. Recommend 7' rather than 9' projection into public space to allow greater pedestrian movement around proposed sidewalk cafe. Recommend roll-type awning rather than post-type awning because roll-type poses less obstruction to public space. 6/23/77	Sign, awning, and rental of public space.
128	3228 M Street, N.W. Marciano Cabellos & Consuelo Boger ACTION: Do not issue permit. Location of sign should not interfere with existing trim over windows or across face of building. Specifically recommend against attaching sign to cornice running above first floor. Recommend that a small, double-faced projecting sign be considered for this location and that an exception to permit such sign be considered. Recommend single type-face and simple design. 6/23/77	Erect 18" x 12', 3/4" plywood sign flat against face of building.
129	1215 30th Street, N.W. J. Coleman Bean ACTION: Issue permit. Recommend submission of brick sample for approval prior to exterior wall erection. 6/23/77	Three-story masonry addition to rear of existing house, containing study, bedroom, and living room extension.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
28 June, 1977

The meeting convened at the offices of the Commission of Fine Arts, 708 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C., at 10:00 a.m.

Members Present: Hon. J. Carter Brown, Chairman
Hon. Philip W. Buchen
Hon. Victorine du Pont Homsey
Hon. Frederick D. Nichols
Hon. Kevin Roche

Staff Present: Mr. Charles H. Atherton, Secretary
Mr. Donald B. Myer, Assistant Secretary
Miss Lynda L. Brown
Mr. Jeffrey R. Carson
Mr. J. L. Sibley Jennings, Jr.
Mrs. Sue A. Kohler
Miss Nancy H. Noyes

National Capital Planning
Commission Staff Present: Mr. David Richards

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Dates of next meetings were set at 26 July, 1977 and 23 August, 1977, with the possibility of cancelling the August meeting.

B. Minutes of the May, 1977 meeting, approved.

C. House District Committee Hearings on Staff Report, "Impediments to the Economic, Functional, and Aesthetic Development of the District of Columbia, the Nation's Capital" - Report. The Secretary said that the Commission had been send copies of the House District Committee report and that the Chairman had made a statement in their behalf on June 23, 1977. The Chairman said that the Committee expressed a genuine interest in the Commission and its role in the city and that his reception had been excellent. The Commission's concern for keeping the height limits in Washington had been included in the Chairman's statement.

EXHIBIT A

D. Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation, Western Sector Guildelines. The Secretary reported that the members had all been sent copies of the design guidelines, which echoed the Commission's early concerns for the design of the area along Pennsylvania Avenue between 13th and 15th Streets. The Pennsylvania

Avenue Development Corporation would present the guidelines at the Commission meeting on July 26, 1977.

II. SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS

A. National Capital Planning Commission

Foreign Missions and International Agencies Elements to the Comprehensive Plan. The Assistant Secretary reported that the National Capital Planning Commission was attempting to take foreign missions and coordinate them as a city development asset for the first time in the history of the city. He indicated that the NCPC had prepared numerous statistics and studies for their three-volume report showing where the movements of these elements to areas recommended for missions, Massachusetts Avenue from Union Station to Observatory Circle was suggested to stabilize this major avenue and its number of historically and architecturally significant structures. The report had a similar view of 16th Street where mission activity was declining and the Commission of Fine Arts was conducting an architectural study. Throughout the office-downtown area missions would be encouraged. In Georgetown's historic district where congestion would be adverse mission location would be discouraged. The Assistant Secretary said that the report failed to mention the Commission of Fine Arts review required by the Shipstead-Luce Act and that this ought to be pointed out in an otherwise favorable response. The Commission unanimously endorsed the National Capital Planning Commission report on foreign missions.

EXHIBIT B

B. National Park Service, National Capital Region

Theodore Roosevelt Island Footbridge - Resubmission. The Assistant Secretary presented a single drawing of a revised design for the simple concrete footbridge with timber railings. Shore landings and abutments were extremely simple and would have little impact on natural areas of the island. The Commission looked at the previous designs and the revised designs. Mr. Nichols asked Park Service representative Robert Romanowski why the one time scheme for a single span bridge had been abandoned. Mr. Romanowski and the Assistant Secretary told that cost estimates for the 400-foot single span orthotropic steel bridge had been too high. The Park Service had decided on a less expensive bridge to expedite the project. The Chairman said that the new simpler bridge may even be more appropriate to a wooded setting. The other members concurred and the design was unanimously approved.

EXHIBIT C

C. Smithsonian Institution

Plantation and Paved Areas between the Smithsonian Institution Building and the Arts and Industries Building - Redevelopment Designs. The Assistant Secretary presented site and design drawings for a simple revision to an existing landscape area. A single triangular area now enclosed with fence hedges and benches would be partly open as a waiting area for the Mall Tourmobile. The east entrance of the Smithsonian Building would be buffered by a low traffic forecourt. This would provide more waiting space for the Tourmobile and protect the east staff-only entrance of the Smithsonian Building. The Commission discussed the project with Smithsonian Director of Planning, Mr. Philip Reiss, and approved the designs unanimously. The members asked that urn and street furniture designs as developed be submitted for review. Mr. Reiss agreed.

EXHIBIT D

D. Department of the Treasury, Bureau of the Mint

1. Jimmy Carter Presidential Medal, Reverse Design. The Secretary presented a less complicated design for this face and the Commission unanimously approved it. The previous design had included a great number of design elements, but it had been simplified to include the Presidential Seal as the main element.

EXHIBIT E

2. Chief Justice John Marshall Medal, Obverse Design. The Secretary presented this design with Mint representative Mr. Raymond Myers and the Commission unanimously approved it.

3. Chief Justice Harlan F. Stone Medal, Obverse Design. The Secretary presented this design and it was unanimously approved, with the suggestion that the portrait image be moved slightly to the left to even out the voids surrounding it.

4. Carson City Historic Mint Medal, Obverse Design. The Secretary presented this revised design and it was unanimously approved.

E. District of Columbia Zoning Commission

Relocation of Lenthall Houses, 612-14 19th Street, N.W., George Washington University and World Bank Planned Unit Development of new office building on a block with several historic buildings. The Assistant Secretary said that the Chairman of the District of Columbia Zoning Commission asked that the Commission of Fine Arts advise the Zoning Commission on the advisability of moving the Lenthall Houses from their original sites. The case, while still pending before the Zoning Commission, had been altered

somewhat by the decision of the church on 20th and G Streets, N.W. to withdraw from a Planned Unit Development request to allow George Washington University to build a large office building for the World Bank on the block bounded by 19th, G, 20th, and F Streets, N.W. The Commission of Fine Arts had considered designs for a new office building, 1919 F Street, at a time when the Lenthall Houses were partly owned, one by the University and one by a private party. At that time the Lenthall Houses were to be retained on their site and posed an awkward relationship to the new 130-foot-high office building being proposed. In reviewing designs at that time, the Commission had recommended that all existing buildings on the block be retained, all or in part. This included the Lenthall Houses, the Alexander Ray House, Concordia Church, and a row of 19th century houses on G Street. The University had proposed to remove the Alexander Ray house from the block and demolish the G Street buildings; the Commission had advised against that. The Commission recommended that the residential row buildings along the 1900 block of G Street be retained for urban design reasons. A variety of designs had been discussed and the Commission's desires had been passed on to the Zoning Commission in the spirit of working with them to determine how much additional floor area, over and above present zoning, should be allowed in terms of public amenity which would take the form of historic preservation and urban design, retaining some 19th century streetscape.

The Commission had some general discussion of the subject. All agreed that if the Lenthall Houses could be moved to G Street to help complete the low facades of the G Street houses this would be acceptable. The Commission had no objection to moving them to achieve an excellent design provided the Alexander Ray House could be kept on its site with its garden, and the G Street streetscape retained.

The Assistant Secretary told the members that there were interested parties present. These included Ms. Betts Abel of Don't Tear It Down and M. Chardonnet of the World Bank. From George Washington University there were Dr. Elliott the President, Mr. Deihl, Vice President for Planning, and Mr. Hertzog, project coordinator. Mr. Koubek, the architect, was present as well. The Chairman invited Dr. Elliott to comment on the problem. Dr. Elliott indicated the University's willingness to make every effort to cooperate with the Commission while providing an economically feasible project satisfactory to the World Bank. University and architect representatives discussed their preference for locating the Lenthall Houses off the block, showing the Commission slides of a series of alternate sites that had been studied by the architectural firm of John Carl Warnecke and Associates. Their ideal scheme was to move the houses next to the Woodhull House at 21st and G Streets. They stated that retaining the G Street buildings and the Lenthall

Houses on the block could make their project infeasible. Dr. Elliott testified that from the University's point of view, the relocation of the Lenthall Houses to 21st Street would integrate them into the life of the University, whereas leaving them on the northwest corner of their present block would isolate them functionally, and they would be of no use to the World Bank.

Ms. Betts Abel from Don't Tear It Down asked to make a statement which dealt with the rear wings of the Lenthall Houses. Her fear was that the main part only of the houses would be preserved with the kitchen wings removed. The Chairman indicated that the Commission was in no way reacting to any specific proposal, but was discussing the feasibility of moving the houses.

The Commission decided that their recommendation to the Zoning Commission was that the optimum scheme for moving the Lenthall Houses would be to preserve them on Square 121, their original block, along with the Ray House and its garden and the fronts of the G Street buildings with the Concordia Church, moving them to a site on G Street if need be. If it would be mandatory that the houses be removed from the block, they would look favorably on a proposal to move the Lenthall Houses to the site next to the Woodhull Houses on 21st and G Streets. This was the only one of the proposed alternative sites that they felt would be acceptable, and if moved off their original block, this would not cancel their previous insistence that the G Street houses in that block not be removed.

EXHIBIT F

F. D.C. Department of Economic Development

Old Georgetown Act

1. OG 77-116, 1210-14 35th Street, N.W., Three New Row Houses - Resubmission. The Secretary presented designs for three houses indicating that the Commission had reviewed a number of previous schemes prepared by a previous architect. J. Richards Andrews had now been retained to design the houses and his scheme had received preliminary approval by the Georgetown Board. Mr. Andrews discussed his desire to have three similar houses of a simple contemporary style set back behind an existing stone retaining wall and described his efforts to have a minimal impact on nearby historic Prospect House. The Commission examined the drawings and unanimously approved the preliminary design.

2. OG 77-120, 3250 Grace Street, N.W., Construction of Townhouse Structures and Remodeling of Existing Buildings - Resubmission. The Assistant Secretary presented a number of drawings of the facade and window details for this large-scale project. He reviewed the Commission's previous approval of the scheme subject

to approval of detail drawings. He further indicated that the drawings reflected the Commission's and the Georgetown Board's efforts at simplicity and harmony, though the Board had not reviewed the specific set of drawings. The Commission examined the drawings and unanimously approved them subject to examination and approval of the Georgetown Board.

3. OG 77-131, 1101 30th Street, N.W., New Apartment Building - Resubmission. The Assistant Secretary presented drawings and models of this project which the Commission had reviewed at its May 1977 meeting. The Georgetown Board indicated that they found the design moving in the right direction. He recounted the members' suggestion of restudy to decrease the project height at the northeast corner which related to several smallish Victorian structures. The Commission also asked to have a model reflect the vicinity of the project in terms of urban scale in relation to adjacent projects, the C. & O. Canal, and M Street. The architect, Arthur Cotton Moore, showed drawings and models indicating his efforts to accommodate the Commission's suggestions. The members examined the material closely, with the Chairman and Mr. Roche revisiting the site later in the day. The Commission took the unanimous action of asking for further study along the entire north facade of the project to bring down the height.

4. OG 77-133, 1049 30th Street, N.W., New Office, Apartment, and Hotel Complex - Resubmission. The Secretary presented a number of drawings indicating that the Georgetown Board had approved numerous window and molding profile designs for the inn building. A representation was shown the Commission who unanimously approved the, but asked for more study of the entrance door, eliminating the false balcony introduced to mask security cameras. The architect, Mr. Vercelli, described the design progress of the project's large combined office-apartment structure and the Commission unanimously approved it. The Commission then discussed designs of the proposed gatehouse of the project finding in agreement with the Georgetown Board that it was unacceptably jarring to the 30th Streetscape, because of its geometry and general lack of flat facade or regular fenestration patterns. The Commission unanimously recommended restudy of the Gatehouse.

5. OG 77-134, 1218 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., Installation of a Painting on Exterior Wall. The Secretary showed photographs of a painting of a girl's face superimposed in a giant strawberry shortcake proposed to be hung on the side of the Third Edition restaurant in Georgetown. The Landmarks Committee and the Georgetown Board had reviewed the proposal and found it a way to gauge community reaction to the temporary placement of art in the historic district. There was some general discussion, with the Chairman stating his belief that the idea was simply not in its

proper context as a logical element in a historic district. In view of the relationship of the subject of the painting to the business on whose wall it was to hang, he saw it as a way of circumventing the Georgetown art standards on signage size with possible implications as a precedent. Mr. Nichols felt the project would be best tried out in a different part of the city. Mr. Roche said that he found the painting interesting and at first had no objection to having it hung on a rather ugly party wall temporarily. He did not feel strongly, however. The members felt that other steps could be taken to improve the appearance of the wall. The members unanimously disapproved the proposal.

6. OG 77-136, 3616 N Street, N.W. The Secretary presented drawings and photographs for a new single residence which the Georgetown Board had reviewed twice and rejected. He indicated that the house had a combination of clapboard and brick on the front facade which was also to be covered by a wisteria trellis. The Board found the design lacking in the facade plane, window opening relationship common to most of Georgetown. This comment was made on the arrangement and geometry rather than the style of the proposed house. The architect, John Wiebenson, presented his feelings to the contrary, indicating that an architect's design expression of the client's specific personal desires was being questioned. He felt that the design of the row house was in scale with the neighborhood and was a harmonious neighbor. After some general discussion, the Chairman indicated that the line between propriety and individual design was a difficult one which the Commission was given little choice by under the Old Georgetown Act. The Commission unanimously disapproved the design.

7. Appendix 1, approved.

Shipstead-Luce Act

1. SL 77-71, 2601-11 Klinge Road, N.W., Six Single-Family Detached Houses. The Secretary indicated that the Commission had reviewed and approved the individual house designs in May, but had requested a site inspection during this meeting. The members agreed that they would visit the site later in the day. After that site visit the Commission approved the project.

2. SL 77-78, 1415-19 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Installation of Parking Lifts on Roof of Parking Garage. The Assistant Secretary presented several photographs of the proposal to make legal some double-deck parking structures which had been installed along the Pennsylvania Avenue edge of a parking garage roof. He indicated that the structures were extremely visible and that a permit for the structures had been overlooked. Mr. Roche said that he had noticed the installation and found it wholly unacceptable.

The Chairman had also seen it and felt that there was no worse palce for such devices. The Commission unanimously disapproved the application.

3. SL 77-81, 13th & E Streets, N.W., New 12-Story Office Building with Retail and Underground Parking. The Secretary presented drawings of the preliminary designs for a precast concrete building on the north side of Western Plaza. The structure would conform to the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation Plan and would be under the allowable floor area for the site, giving room for some architectural articulation. The architect, Frank Schlesinger, gave a brief description of the building and how it would have a variety of interior spaces with two-floor elevator lobbies and such would be reflected in the exterior modeling of the facade. The Commission examined the drawings stating pleasure that the Pennsylvania Avenue Plan was being implemented with the filling in of an eyesore vacant lot at one of the most visible areas of the plan. The preliminary design was unanimously approved.

4. SL 77-82, 5196 27th Street, N.W., Two New Single-Family Houses - Resubmission. The Assistant Secretary presented a model and site plan depicting a total redesign of the site. The Commission had previously reviewed the design of three houses on this site and after a site inspection had recommended against both the design and the building of three houses on the wooded lot flanking Rock Creek Park. A new architect, Mr. Corcoran, had prepared a new scheme with two natural wood houses on the site. His scheme preserved most trees on the site and blended in well with the terrain. The Commission examined the material and were aware that one of the adjacent neighbors had hoped for smaller buildings of lower height. They found the designs excellent, pending examination of working drawings and actual site details. The preliminary design was unanimously approved.

5. SL 77-88, 453 New Jersey Avenue, S.E., New Office/Retail Building - Resubmission. The Secretary presented revised drawings of a small contemporary building with Victorian overtones to be built adjacent to row houses in the Capitol Hill Historic District. He indicated that the Commission had approved the general scheme some time before, but that zoning problems had dictated rearrangement of the building. The main difference was a set-back away from the adjacent row of houses, forming a small alleyway. The members unanimously approved the revised design.

6. Appendix 2, approved unanimously.

G. D.C. Department of Housing and Community Development

Fort Lincoln Activity Area Landscape Plan. The Assistant Secretary introduced Mr. Sherman from the Department of Housing and Community Development indicating that the design was an implementation of the Fort Lincoln master plan. The activity area proposed several baseball fields and tennis courts and was in harmony with and adjacent to the Fort Park in the center of Fort Lincoln, the new residential community. The Commission found the proposal consistent with their expectations and unanimously approved the design.

EXHIBIT G

Historic Subdivisions

Appendix 3, Historic Subdivision Applications, approved.

III. INSPECTIONS

A. National Zoological Park

Central Area Development. The Chairman, Mrs. Homsey, Mr. Nichols, and Mr. Roche went to the Zoo with the Secretary and Assistant Secretary to meet with Dr. Reed, the Zoo Director, and Mr. Robert Engle of his staff. The Commission toured the new Administration Building and discussed a possible cooling plant installation for the Subway nearby. The consensus was that such a cooling tower could be installed, but carefully so as to protect the treescape along Connecticut Avenue near the entrance of the Zoo. The members then toured the Zoo grounds observing the new graphics system as well as recently completed exhibits and exhibits under construction. No Action was required. EXHIBIT H

B. D.C. Department of Economic Development

SL 77-71, 2601-11 Klinge Road, N.W., Six New Single-Family Detached Houses. As mentioned in Item II, F, SL 1 above, the site was inspected and the project preliminarily approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Signed,



Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON

9 June, 1977

Memo to: Commission of Fine Arts members
From: Charles H. Atherton, Secretary
Subject: Draft Statement, House District Committee Hearings

Enclosed is a draft of the Chairman's statement for the House District Committee Hearings on June 15, as discussed at the meeting on the 24th.

Please give me a call if you have any comments.



Draft/Myer/6 June, 1977

STATEMENT OF HON. J. CARTER BROWN BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

On behalf of the Commission of Fine Arts, I am here to express support and enthusiasm for the well-documented and thoughtful efforts of the Committee in its recent reports on the design, height, and environmental qualities of the District of Columbia. We are very pleased to be involved in this effort with you since our Commission and the Congress are really the successors to the Federal interest so well articulated by the McMillan Commission at the turn of this century. We certainly agree with your report and the feeling that there are many excellent and unique qualities to the District of Columbia which organized, constructive joint efforts can build upon. The framework of the L'Enfant and McMillan plans provides an opportunity for excellence in a city that has local, national, and international importance. Responding to this multiplicity of contributing efforts and jurisdictions makes a unified visual result difficult to achieve. We are aware of problems resulting from overlapping jurisdictions and numerous agencies dealing with design and planning in the District of Columbia. Nevertheless, there has been a high overall level of public design in this city. As examples, we see the Mall nearly or nearing completion for the first time in the history of the city; the execution of a beautifully designed public transportation system under way; and the Pennsylvania Avenue Plan, now on the thresh-

hold of implementation. Design systems of blending new and historic structures and the multi-use concept promoted by the Cooperative Use Buildings Act of 1976 are among the new tools for the future. These, along with proper economic incentives and a recognition of both the monumental and residential character of this city ought to give us the momentum necessary to promote the Nation's Capital as one of the leading urban areas in the world.

We hope that the Commission of Fine Arts can continue to play an important role as an independent Federal agency in the process. We support efforts to streamline the planning process in the Capital, and will continue to offer our services as an overview agency with potential coordination of Federal and local agencies involved. In our discussion with the Office of Management and Budget, the city staff, the National Capital Planning Commission, and members of your own staff, we have come to the conclusion that design review and independent coordinating advice would be of greater benefit than creating a new agency. Such a new agency could very likely add another layer of bureaucracy and complicate the process unduly.

Aside from advising the Federal and local governments on new public buildings since 1910, we have advised the District for the last 45 years through provisions of the Shipstead-Luce and, more recently, the Old Georgetown Acts on private development in ^{specific} limited parts of the city. Again, we feel there has been a considerable

measure of success in the areas affected. Perhaps this type of jurisdiction should be expanded to other special areas in the city. Perhaps it should extend to the General Services Administration's involvement with the private sector as well. Not only can we offer the services of broad architectural review, but we feel our role as coordinator has been extremely important and could perhaps grow. As advisor to the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation, we hold up as one example the Western Plaza on Pennsylvania Avenue between 13th and 14th Streets. As a part of the overall planning for Pennsylvania Avenue, this was one area that was very difficult to resolve. You recall, at one time there was a great National Square proposed between 14th and 15th Streets. Efforts to renovate the Willard Hotel and preserve other buildings on the Avenue complicated the process, as did criss-crossing highway priorities. The Commission of Fine Arts proposed a design based on historic precedent and coordinated this design with the National Park Service, the District Government, the National Capital Planning Commission, the Department of Transportation, and the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation. A resulting classic square is now an official, approved part of the Pennsylvania Avenue Plan, and one of the elements about to be constructed. There are other examples where overview and coordination can be an extremely valuable addition to the advisory role within the Nation's Capital.

One area of the report that especially pleases us is the

Area on the height limit of Washington, which, as you know, has helped more than almost any other element to create the special city we know today. Maintaining Washington's low silhouette should continue everywhere despite the Mayor's eloquent plea to raise it in the downtown commercial core. Concern about penthouses as mentioned in your report does tie into height limits. We join you in finding the current penthouse type in Washington ugly and feel that incorporating these penthouses within a more orderly profile of buildings may be one area of compromise on the height limit. Though the Commission of Fine Arts has frequently asked for diminished penthouses or lower heights, voluntary height reduction is a spotty affair at best, but we do encourage this Committee's interest in the matter. In our advisory role to the Mayor and the city government, we find increasing cooperation, however. As height and code regulations may be varied based on transportation, historic preservation, and good design, we hope the process is worked out selectively so as not to destroy the very particular values of the city. Detailed study will be mandatory, hopefully with a model as suggested by your report. This, as you know, was the technique used by the McMillan Commission in 1901. Their models, as on view at the Smithsonian "Plans and Realities" exhibit, were an invaluable working tool and have become an excellent record of the city and the plan in 1900.

The report mentions the makeup of the Commission of Fine Arts.

This we view as a multi-faceted problem which can be solved very simply by insuring the very highest quality appointments to the Commission of Fine Arts resulting in excellent advice and having this advice backed up by the Executive and Legislative branches of government. The role of advisor and coordinator must be one which relies on the best qualifications, excellence, and the prestige of high level backing. We look forward to working with this Committee and hope to have its support in what we feel is a very important task. Thank you.

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON

13 July, 1977

Dear Mr. Conrad:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting on June 28, reviewed the "Foreign Missions" study prepared by the staff of the National Capital Planning Commission.

I am glad to report that the Commission endorses the staff study and hopes it can be implemented in the near future. It is important that it be viewed not only as a guideline for future comprehensive planning for foreign mission facilities, but that it also be looked upon as the city's official assurance that the traditional neighborhoods of 16th Street and Massachusetts Avenue will continue to serve this unique and important need. I need not elaborate on the special architectural character of both these areas. Anything that can be done to further the recognition of these districts as international centers would be most welcome.

The concept of developing international uses along the lower part of Massachusetts Avenue between Scott Circle and Union Station is also an excellent recommendation. The National Visitors Center and the campus of the District of Columbia University will all be elements in the renewal of one of the city's most beautiful avenues, and the placement of foreign missions in this setting would be most suitable.

On the other hand, there are some areas of the city that are very desirable but do not necessarily lend themselves to foreign mission establishments. The Georgetown area in particular should be avoided, especially on the waterfront where further commercial and office development is already threatening an excessive density and congestion.

Finally, since the NCPC proposals discuss the Old Georgetown Act as well as other review aspects involved in building around and about the District of Columbia, I might also note the Shipstead-Luce Act, which requires that architectural change

13 July, 1977

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or new construction flanking the monumental core of the city as well as Rock Creek Park be reviewed by the Commission of Fine Arts. There are already a number of embassy sites within the Shipstead area, so your report and comprehensive listing of potential reviews ought to include mention of the Shipstead-Luce Act.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Charles H. Atherton". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large initial "C" and a long, sweeping tail on the "n".

Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

Mr. Charles Conrad
Executive Director
National Capital Planning Commission
1325 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20576

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON

8 July, 1977

Dear Jack,

The Commission of Fine Arts examined revised designs for the Theodore Roosevelt Island Footbridge during its June 28, 1977 meeting. We are enthusiastic about the cooperative efforts made by the Park Service in coming up with the very successful concrete and timber design. We feel the bridge will be an asset to the area and look forward to working with you on any landscape plans or additional access elements that may be required.

Sincerely yours,



J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Manus J. Fish
Director
National Capital Region
National Park Service
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON

8 July, 1977

Dear Mr. Reiss:

The Commission of Fine Arts approved schematic designs for a new garden and paving area between the Arts and Industries Building and the Smithsonian Castle at their meeting on June 28, 1977. Our primary concern is the piecemeal development of the area within this part of the Smithsonian complex. Our hope is that a coordinated master plan of all the landscaping within this immediate vicinity be tied together as soon as possible. We would also like to look at the street furniture designs being proposed for this area, particularly the urns, prior to their placement.

Sincerely yours,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Philip K. Reiss
Director,
Office of Facilities, Planning
and Engineering Services
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D.C. 20565

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON

8 July, 1977

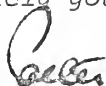
Dear Mr. MacDonald:

The Commission of Fine Arts approved revised designs for the Jimmy Carter Presidential Medal during its June 28, 1977 meeting. The much simplified design centered on the Presidential Seal is an appropriate expression of office and will serve as a good model for future medals in the series.

The Commission also approved designs for the Chief Justice John Marshall Medal, the Chief Justice Harlan F. Stone Medal, and the Carson City Historic Mint Medal. We would, however, like to recommend one small change to the Harlan Stone Medal. The amount of free space on the right is less than that on the left, a problem that should be alleviated by moving the portrait image slightly to the left.

With congratulations on a handsome group of medals,

Sincerely yours,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Frank H. MacDonald
Acting Director of the Mint
Department of Treasury
Washington, D.C. 20220

1 July, 1977

Memo to: J. Carter Brown, Chairman
Charles H. Atherton, Secretary
From: Donald B. Myer, Assistant Secretary
Subject: Zoning Commission Hearing, 30 June, 1977 on Rezoning
Square 121, re: CFA Review of 1919 F Street, N.W.,
and Moving of the Lenthall Houses.

Prior to the meeting of the D.C. Zoning Commission which ran from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m., most interested parties had seen copies of the Commission of Fine Arts letter dated 29 June, 1977 on the subject of moving the Lenthall Houses. I hand carried extra copies and distributed them during the meeting.

Mr. Mariani, Chairman of the Zoning Commission, called on me first to report on the Commission's review. I indicated that the letter was the extent of our statement and would be happy to answer any questions. The Zoning Commission asked me to point out the various locations mentioned in the Commission of Fine Arts letter on an aerial photo. Questions dealt with the subject matter of the letter and not the Commission's deliberations or discussions with George Washington University. One member, Dr. Lewis, asked if the Commission was concerned with a new World Bank Building overwhelming the smaller scale of the preserved buildings. I stated that an excellent design would deal with this very sensitive problem. Dr. Lewis also asked if the Commission had considered structural damage to the Lenthall Houses in the proposed move. I said no. He asked if I felt there was any danger; I said no. This was confirmed by University advisors.

The University did not cross examine me.

After testimony by several parties and persons in opposition to the application for rezoning, the hearing was concluded. The record will be held open for two weeks. The Zoning Commission should make their decision in August.

15 April, 1977

Memo to: J. Carter Brown, Chairman
Charles H. Atherton, Secretary
From: Donald B. Myer, Assistant Secretary
Subject: Zoning Hearing on 1919 F Street, N.W., Case 76-14P,
Monday, March 14, 1977.

George Washington University presented scheme Alternate A which the Commission reviewed in December, which includes the G Street facades, Lenthall Houses in place, corner park, and moving the F Street Club. Monday, March 14th, the meeting lasted from 1:00 to 9:30 p.m. during which the various parties were qualified and the applicants began their presentation, including statements by President Elliott, various administration officials, architects, consultants, and lawyers. Microscopic cross examination by the ANC, Committee for the Campus, Don't Tear It Down, and various attorneys is prolonging the process.

The Case will resume on April 4th at 1:00. Several parts of the applicants' case have yet to be made and cross examined. Immediately after that two government witnesses, the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission, will have an opportunity to make a statement. From this distance it seems likely that the Commission of Fine Arts' testimony would come on between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. Sitting on the Zoning Commission we can expect the following: Ted Mariani, AIA, the new chairman; George White, Architect of the Capitol; Dick Stanton from the Park Service; and Dr. Lewis, a zoning lawyer and past chairman. Municipal Planning Office and Zoning Commission staff present are likely to include Ben Gilbert, Kirk White, Steve Sher, Arthur Hatton, and a fellow named Hammond.

Parties in opposition seemed to be taking the line that trade-offs in zoning value can result in good design potential by keeping the Ray House of F Street Club on its existing site. One proposal that may emerge is to move the Lenthall Houses to the opposite end of the block between the church and the Ray House, keeping as well the G Street facades. I understand that Don't Tear It Down has been negotiating directly with one of the Lenthall owners, Mrs. Obear, on this scheme.

15 March, 1977

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Mr. Chardonnet from the World Bank sent his greetings to all and indicated that he and Mr. Macnamara were delighted with the idea of lively uses for the G Street facades. Their hope is that one of the houses will serve as an entrance to their large underground auditorium, another will provide public access to the cafeteria which may be open in the evening, and several others would be used for a variety of exhibit or shop uses.

Judging from the lay of the land, the Commission of Fine Arts' statement will be well received by the Zoning Commission and by the proponents and opponents of the project as being fair, even-handed, and expected. Though some cross examination is possible, it will be limited to the precise content of our statement. Any other subject matter will not be permitted nor considered relevant.

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON

12 July, 1977

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

The Commission of Fine Arts approved the Fort Lincoln Activity Area and landscape plan during its June 28, 1977 meeting. We understand that a revised overall Fort Lincoln master plan is now being developed. The Commission would appreciate a copy of this plan when it becomes available so that individual projects such as the Activity Area can be viewed in their larger context of the entire site.

Sincerely yours,



Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

Mr. Lorenzo W. Jacobs
Director
Department of Housing and
Community Development
107 District Building
14th & E Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON

8 July, 1977

Dear Ted:

Many thanks for your excellent tour on June 28, 1977. We appreciate your hospitality as well as the opportunity to see the many works in progress at the Zoo. We find the ongoing work is proceeding well and we are particularly pleased with the way the new Administration Building developed with its site well back from Connecticut Avenue to protect the valuable landscaping at the entrance.

The Commission also intends to review any new projects affecting the treescape and entrance to the Zoo along Connecticut Avenue, showing particular care toward preserving the character of the major public entrance to the parking lots on the north end. It would appear that the proposed cooling plant to be constructed by Metro between the Zoo Administration Building and the Kennedy-Warren Apartments would eliminate far too many trees as presently designed, and we will do what we can to see if this situation can be improved.

Sincerely yours,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Dr. Theodore H. Reed
Director,
National Zoological Park
Washington, D.C. 20009

